



MONTHLY NOTICES

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No. 5

W. H. MAW, Esq., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

Frederick Joseph William Crowe, Marsden, Chichester ;
 Thomas Edward Heath, 53 Park Place, Cardiff ;
 Samuel Thomas Johnson, Melrose, Bridport, Dorset ;
 George Tyrrell McCaw, Geodetic Survey, North Eastern
 Rhodesia, South Africa ; and
 Percy Alfred Talbot, B.A., F.R.G.S., F.A.I., Sapele, Southern
 Nigeria, West Africa,

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following candidates were proposed for election as Fellows of the Society, the names of the proposers from personal knowledge being appended :—

Edmund Dickson, F.G.S., 2 Starkie Street, Preston, Lancashire (proposed by A. L. Cortie) ;
 Jacob Karl Ernst Halm, Ph.D., Royal Observatory, Edinburgh (proposed by F. W. Dyson) ;
 John William Hicks, Computer to the Ordnance Committee, Ordnance Committee Office, Woolwich (proposed by Sir W. H. M. Christie) ;
 William Malin Hunt, engineer, 48-50 London Road, Nottingham (proposed by Samuel Fellows) ; and
 Lieut. Edwin Baikie Simpson-Baikie, R.N.R., 142A, The Bluff, Yokohama, Japan (proposed by D. P. Richards).

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A hundred and one presents were announced as having been received since the last ordinary meeting, including, amongst others :—

Miss A. M. Clerke, *Modern Cosmogonies*, presented by the author ; W. T. Lynn, *Remarkable Comets and Remarkable Eclipses* (new editions), presented by the author ; *Paris Observatory Memoires*, vol. xxiv. (Gaillot, *Tables de Saturne*), presented by the Observatory ; *Philadelphia Observatory Publications*, vol. ii., pts. 2, 3 (*Measures of Double Stars &c.*), presented by the Observatory ; *Tōkyō Observatory Annals*, vol. iii., pts. 3, 4, presented by the Observatory.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich, eight original negatives of the Sun taken 1905 October–November, and thirty-six charts of the *Astrographic Chart of the Heavens*, presented by the Observatory ; photographs of the Solar Eclipse of 1905 August 30, presented by Mr. E. W. Barlow ; two photographs of the Flash Spectrum, 1905 August 30, presented by Dr. S. A. Mitchell.

On the Correction to Hansen's "Tables de la Lune" as deduced by Mr. Cowell. By E. Nevill.

As Mr. Cowell has brought to a conclusion the series of papers he has been contributing for the last two years to the *Monthly Notices* on the errors of the lunar tables, as shown by the Greenwich observations since 1750, it seems fitting that one who has been working for thirty years on the subject should offer such criticism as seems necessary on the results that have been obtained in one of the most important contributions that have been made for years to the better understanding of the motion of the Moon.

(1) The methods of investigation adopted by Mr. Cowell are perfectly sound, and the apparent values of the corrections he has deduced from the observations and embodied in Table X. of his paper in the *Monthly Notices* for 1904 December appear to have been derived with accuracy in a legitimate manner. Some small errors may have been made and some mistakes overlooked ; but in so long and complicated an investigation such things are unavoidable, as I have learnt by much experience. My own investigation of the same observation, completed years ago, have afforded many facilities for testing the accuracy of Mr. Cowell's work, and have shown its freedom from important error ; and I have no hesitation in accepting the values given in Mr. Cowell's Table X. for the apparent coefficients of the *sine* and *cosine* of the various arguments considered, as the actual values corresponding to the adopted date.

The criticisms I have to offer deal with the proper interpretation to be put on the results which have been deduced from the